

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| In re Patent Application of |) | |
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| Kazuyoshi NOGUCHI et al. |) | Group Art Unit: Unassigned |
| |) | |
| Application No.: Unassigned |) | Examiner: Unassigned |
| |) | |
| Filed: July 31, 2003 |) | Confirmation No.: Unassigned |
| |) | |
| For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS AND |) | |
| IMAGE FORMING METHOD |) | |

**FIRST
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby submit the following information in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98.

The documents are being submitted within three (3) months of the filing or entry of the national stage of this application or before the first Office Action on the merits, whichever is later. Since documents are being filed within the time period set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) no fee or statement is required.

To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner-initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: July 31, 2003

By: 

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| Substitute for forms 1449A/PTO & 1449B/PTO FIRST INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT | ATTORNEY'S DKT NO. 018656-676 | APPLICATION NO. Unassigned |
| | APPLICANT Kazuyoshi NOGUCHI et al. | |
| | FILING DATE July 31, 2003 | GROUP Unassigned |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Examiner Initials | Document Number | Kind Code (if known) | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Issue/Publication Date (MM-DD-YYYY) |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Examiner Initials | Document Number | Kind Code (if known) | Country | Date of Publication (MM-DD-YYYY) | Translation Yes No | |
| | 08-294005 | | Japan | 11-05-1996 | Abst. | |
| | 05-292319 | | Japan | 11-05-1993 | Abst. | |
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| NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Examiner Initials | Include name of author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. |
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| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. § 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. **SEND TO:** Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.